



Fact Sheet

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Contaminated Site Cleanup

Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's responsibilities include assuring the safe decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The NRC's decommissioning regulations prescribe requirements for decommissioning planning, radiological criteria, timely decommissioning, financial assurance, recordkeeping, and license termination.

Regulations

In 1988, the NRC amended its regulations (10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72) to set forth the technical and financial criteria for decommissioning licensed nuclear facilities. These regulations were further amended in 1993, to establish additional recordkeeping requirements for decommissioning; in 1994, to establish timeframes and schedules for the decommissioning of licensed nuclear facilities; and in 1995, to clarify that financial assurance requirements must be in place during operations and updated when licensed operations cease. These amendments are to ensure that the decommissioning of all licensed nuclear facilities is performed in a safe and timely manner, and that adequate funds are available to accomplish decommissioning.

The NRC initiated an enhanced participatory rulemaking process in 1992 to establish radiological criteria for decommissioning. A proposed rule was published in the Federal Register in August 1994. After responding to public comments, the rule was finalized and published July 21, 1997, as the final License Termination Rule. The final rule established a limit of 25 millirem (mrem) per year for release of a contaminated site for unrestricted use. Under certain circumstances, release of a site (license termination) is permitted with radiation levels above 25 mrem/yr, provided future use of the site is restricted. NRC developed draft implementation guidance for the rule in August 1998.

Site Decommissioning Management Plan

NRC initiated the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) in 1990 to focus management attention on: 1) identifying and resolving generic and site-specific policy issues affecting decommissioning; and 2) setting priorities and schedules for the decommissioning of sites that presented significant challenges.

A site was listed on the original SDMP list if it met one of the following five criteria:

- (1) Problems with a viable responsible organization;
- (2) Presence of large amounts of soil contamination or unused settling ponds or burial grounds that may be difficult to dispose of;
- (3) Long-term presence of contaminated, unused facility buildings;

- (4) License previously terminated; or
- (5) Contamination or potential contamination of the groundwater.

A new site is listed in the SDMP if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) All restricted use sites;
- (2) Complex unrestricted use sites
 - sites requiring detailed site-specific dose modeling;
 - sites subjected to heightened public, State, or Congressional interest;
 - sites with questionable financial viability.

A summary of the SDMP program is provided in SECY-00-94, "Status of Decommissioning Program," dated April 25, 2000.

Status of SDMP and Complex Decommissioning Sites

There are currently 24 SDMP sites and three additional complex decommissioning sites undergoing decommissioning. Twenty two sites have been removed from the SDMP after successful remediation. In addition, 11 sites have been removed from the SDMP by transfer to an Agreement State or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Current SDMP and complex decommissioning sites:

1. AAR Manufacturing; Livonia, MI
2. Army, Department of, Jefferson Proving Ground; Jefferson, IN
3. Babcock & Wilcox, Shallow Land Disposal Area; Parks Township, PA
4. Babcock & Wilcox; Parks Township, PA
5. Cabot Corporation; Reading, PA
6. Cabot Corporation; Revere, PA
7. Dow Chemical Company; Bay City, MI
8. Fansteel, Inc.; Muskogee, OK
9. SCA Services (Kawkawlin) Landfill; Bay County, MI
10. Heritage Minerals; Lakehurst, NJ
11. Kaiser Aluminum; Tulsa, OK
12. Kerr-McGee; Cimarron, OK
13. Kerr-McGee; Cushing, OK
14. **Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority, Vandergrift, PA
15. Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, MO
16. **Mallinckrodt Chemical Inc., St. Louis, MO
17. Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Bay City, MI
18. Molycorp, Inc.; Washington, PA
19. Molycorp, Inc.; York, PA
20. Permagrain Products; Media, PA
21. Safety Light Corporation; Bloomsburg, PA
22. Sequoyah Fuels Corporation; Gore, OK
23. Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation; Newfield, NJ
24. **Union Carbide, Lawrenceberg, TN
25. Watertown GSA; Watertown, MA
26. Westinghouse Electric Corporation; Waltz Mill, PA
27. Whittaker Corporation; Greenville, PA

** complex decommissioning sites

Sites removed after successful remediation (arranged by date of removal):

1. Allied Signal Aerospace - Bendix Division, Teterboro, NJ; February 1992
2. Budd Company, Philadelphia, PA; April 1993
3. Old Vic, Cleveland, OH; December 1993
4. Amax, Incorporated, Wood County, WV; June 1994
5. Chevron Corporation, Pawling, NY; July 1994
6. Pratt & Whitney; Middletown, CT; October 1995
7. UNC Recovery Systems, Wood River Junction, RI; October 1995
8. Alcoa, Cleveland, OH; April 1996
9. Fromme, Detroit, MI; July 1996
10. RTI, Inc., Rockaway, NJ; January 1997
11. Anne Arundel County/Curtis Bay Depot, MD; July 1997
12. Babcock & Wilcox - Apollo, PA; January 1997
13. Texas Instruments, Attleboro, MA; March 1997
14. Cabot Corporation, Boyertown, PA; September 1998
15. Clevite, Cleveland, OH; September 1998
16. Schott Glass Technologies, Duryea, PA; September 1998
17. Chemetron, Bert Avenue, Cleveland, OH; July 1999
18. Chemetron, Harvard Avenue, Cleveland, OH; July 1999
19. Elkem Metals, Inc., Marietta, OH; August 1999
20. Pesses Co., Pulaski, PA; September 1999
21. Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M), Kerrick, MN; September 2000
22. Watertown Arsenal/Mall, Watertown, MA; September 2000

Sites transferred to Agreement States or EPA:

1. Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, IL; November 1990
2. West Lake Landfill; Bridgeton, MO; June 1995
3. Engelhard Corporation, Plainville, MA; March 1997
4. Nuclear Metals, Inc., Concord, MA; March 1997
5. Wyman-Gordon Company, N. Graton, MA; March 1997
6. Advanced Medical Systems, Inc., Cleveland, OH; August 1999
7. BP Chemicals America, Inc., Lima, OH; August 1999
8. Horizons, Inc., Cleveland, OH; August 1999
9. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District/Southerly Plant, Cleveland, OH; August 1999
10. RMI Titanium Company, Ashtabula, OH; August 1999
11. Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation, Cambridge, OH; August 1999

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